DISNEY COMICS

DOUBLE DUCK MISSION: THERMIC CORE

DOUBLE DUCK MISSION

ISSUE 8.2

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A DUCK FINDS HIMSELF *ALONE* AND FEELING *ADRIFT*...

WALT DISNEY

DOUBLEDUCK

MISSION

Thermic core

EPISODE #2

THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE! I DON'T *FEEL* ADRIFT...

I *AM* ADRIFT!

AND I DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA *WHERE* LAND IS, OR WHICH WAY TO GO!

I-2798-1

NOTHING... THE *GPS* MUST BE BROKEN AND THE COMPASS HAS DEMAGNETIZED!

TAP TAP

THE ONLY OPTION IS TO NAVIGATE BY THE STARS!

I HOPE I CAN REMEMBER HOW!

"THINKING IT'S ALL JAY J'S FAULT MAKES MY FEATHERS BOIL! I'D REALLY LIKE TO KNOW WHY HE BETRAYED THE AGENCY!*

*SEE PREVIOUS EPISODE

WELL, MAYBE I SHOULD JUST ASK HIM DIRECTLY! LUCKILY THE RADIO STILL WORKS!

BZZZZ...

WHITE DEEP CALL..

DOUBLE-DUCK...

TALK! I'M LISTENING!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE TALKING! WHY DID YOU *SELL OUT* TO THE ORGANIZATION?

DON'T TELL ME YOU DID IT FOR THE MONEY! IT CAN'T BE FOR SUCH A SQUALID REASON!

IN FACT, IT WASN'T FOR MONEY! NOT EXACTLY...

I'M ABOUT TO RETIRE, DD! THIS WILL BE MY *LAST* MISSION!

SO?

WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THE ORGANIZATION'S *PENSION PLAN* IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE AGENCY'S!

WHAAAT?!

YOU BETRAYED THEM FOR... A BETTER PENSION?

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT NEVER MIND! WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!

LISTEN TO ME, DD: TELL ME YOUR POSITION AND HAND WHITE DEEP OVER TO THE ORGANIZATION!

IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

OUT OF THE QUESTION!

COME ON! NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO YOU! THEY'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE BATHYSCAPHE! THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU!

NOT A CHANCE!

I'M NO TRAITOR! AND ANYWAY, BY NOW I KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT YOU! I SERIOUSLY *DOUBT* YOU'D LET ME GO!

BUT I WOULD, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR OLD *FRIENDSHIP!*

VERY *FUNNY!* YOU SHOULD BE A COMEDIAN!

LISTEN TO ME, DOUBLEDUCK...

THIS CONVERSA-TION IS OVER! I'M TAKING THIS THING TO THE POLE...

... THEN I PROMISE I'LL BE COMING AFTER YOU!

OVER AND OUT!

CLICK

"BUT I'LL MANAGE, SOMEHOW!"

TAKING THIS THING TO THE POLE... *EASIER SAID THAN DONE!*

THAT DUCK HAS TRICKED US! WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING A STUPID WHALE FOR 3,000 MILES!

DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T GET FAR!

THIS IS BEST *ROUTE* TO REACH THE NORTH POLE!

WE JUST HAVE TO CROSS FROM SOUTH TO NORTH AND BACK AND SOONER OR LATER WE'LL INTERCEPT HIM!

ROUTE

NORTH POLE

JAY J TOLD US HE HAS NO NAVIGATING EXPERIENCE, SO HE'LL FOLLOW THE SIMPLEST PATH!

HE WON'T ESCAPE US!

MUMBLE...

THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE MOST *LOGICAL* ROUTE TO REACH THE POLE!

NORTH POLE

AND MY FRIENDS IN THE ORGANIZATION WILL CERTAINLY BE EXPECTING ME TO FOLLOW THE MOST DIRECT PATH! THAT'S WHY...

... I'LL DO THE OPPO-SITE!

I'LL TRAVEL IN A *ZIG-ZAG!*

SOMETIMES THE *LEAST* SIMPLE PATHS ARE THE *MOST* SAFE!

VRRR

NO TRACE?

STILL NOTHING!

I'M SCANNING HALF THE OCEAN...

HE HASN'T DISAPPEARED...

... HE'S JUST *HIDING!*

JAY J SAID NOT TO *UN-DERESTIMATE* DOUBLE-DUCK! HE'S SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS!

THEN WE'LL WAIT FOR HIM TO MAKE A MISTAKE...

"SOONER OR LATER *EVERYONE* MAKES A MISTAKE!"

VRRR

UH-OH... THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THE PROPELLER!

WARNING...

GULP! I'VE SUCKED UP HALF A TON OF SEAWEED! I'D BETTER SURFACE AND UNTANGLE IT!

UGH... WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE STINK?

HEY, YOU ON THE SAILING SHIP! CAN'T YOU SMELL THAT AWFUL STENCH?

GRUNT!

the cephalopod

HEY! STOP!

SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT SPLAT

SPLA SPLAT

STOP THROWING *MULLET* AT ME!

BE QUIET, ENEMY OF THE *CEPHALOPOD!*

AND I'M NO ENEMY OF CEPHALOPODS! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY ARE!

SHUT UP! DON'T MAKE THINGS *WORSE* FOR YOURSELF!

AND STOP *DIS-TURBING* THE EGG-LAYING!

DO YOU WANT THE SHORT STORY OR THE LONG STORY?

AND ANYWAY THESE ARE *HERRING*, NOT MULLET!

SPEAK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SHIP TRAFFIC IS *BANNED* FROM THIS AREA!

WATCH WHAT YOU SAY, *INTRUDER!* THERE'S NOTHING SMELLY HERE!

WELL, THAT DE-PENDS ON YOUR POINT OF *VIEW!* ACTUALLY, POINT OF *SMELL...*

I DIDN'T KNOW! THE PROPELLER WAS JAMMED...

YOU CAME HERE TO DISTURB THE EGG-LAYING, DIDN'T YOU?

HUMPF! WHOSE EGGS?

... WHICH IS HOW I FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS *STINK!*

THE EGGS OF *CEPHALOPODUS STENCHOLENS*, THE MOLLUSK OUR ASSOCIATION *LOVES, DEFENDS* AND *PROTECTS!*

SAVE CEPHY

THAT'S HIM!

SO THIS... THIS *AROMA* IS PRODUCED BY THE *CEPHALOSTENCHUS?*

THE CEPHALOPODUS STENCHOLENS IS ONE OF THE *WONDERS* OF THE INVERTEBRATE WORLD, YOU IGNORANT DUCK!

SOUNDS FASCINATING!

THIS *STUPENDOUS ANIMAL* MOVES VIA A SYSTEM OF POSTERIOR REACTION!

THAT'S WHAT PRODUCES ITS UNMISTAKABLE FRAGRANCE!

AH, I SEE...

ONCE A YEAR, IT COMES HERE...

... TO LAY ITS EGGS!

AS LONG AS *NO ONE* DISTURBS IT!

PARTICULARLY *POLLUTING SUBMARINERS* LIKE YOU!

UMM... THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING!

MY BATHYSCAPHE DOES NOT POLLUTE! IT HAS A VERY *ECOLOGICALLY FRIENDLY* MOTOR!

WE DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

NOT EVEN A BIT!

FINE, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH!

YOU'D BETTER!

AND DON'T TRY TO BE CLEVER BECAUSE WE'LL SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU! WE'RE *PRETTY SHARP*, YOU KNOW!

FOLLOWING A VERSION OF THE *TRUE* STORY...

WOW! YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID RIGHT AWAY! WE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE THROWN HERRING AT YOU!

WHAT AN *INCREDIBLE* TALE!

INCREDIBLE... *BUT* CREDIBLE, RIGHT?

SO YOU'RE A *RESEARCHER STUDYING SEAWEED* AND ITS ENVIRON MENTAL USES!

EXACTLY!

AND YOU'VE DISCOVERED HOW TO MAKE *FUEL* FROM SEAWEED!

CERTAINLY! SEAWEED IS THE OIL OF THE FUTURE! AND IT DOESN'T POLLUTE!

NOT TO MENTION THE OTHER USES I TOLD YOU ABOUT! FOOD, CLOTHING, PAPER, DIET PILLS, SHOE POLISH, PAINT, TOOTHPASTE...

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT?

YOU CAN MAKE EVERYTHING FROM SEAWEED!

CAN YOU REALLY MAKE *PHOTOCOPIER TONER* AS WELL?

YOU CER-TAINLY CAN, GENTLEMEN!

WE HAVE TO SPREAD THIS *NEWS!*

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT *VIDEO CAMERA?*

AN *INTERVIEW* FOR THE CEPHALO-POD CHANNEL!

WHAT'S THAT? SQUID-BASED PRO-GRAMMING?

IT'S OUR *WEB-TV!* WE BROADCAST OVER THE INTERNET!

AND WE DON'T *ONLY* TALK ABOUT SQUID!

ALSO *CUTTLE-FISH, CLAMS* AND *NAUTILI!*

COME ON, MY ECOLOGICAL FRIEND, TELL US ABOUT THE SEAWEED!

BUT DON'T FORGET THE SEA CUCUMBERS!

I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS A MISTAKE!

AND IN FACT...

CAUGHT!

WHO DO WE HAVE HERE, EH?

Chad Cephalopod

IT'S TRUE, YOU REALLY CAN FIND ALL YOUR OLD FRIENDS ON THE INTERNET!

CAN YOU *TRACE* THE DUCK'S POSITION?

ALREADY ON IT!

HE'S HERE!

LET'S GO GET HIM!

NOW, HOW ABOUT A FEW WORDS ON *PLANKTON?*

ON... PLANKTON?

WE *LOVE* PLANKTON! AND WE REALLY LIKE HERMIT CRABS TOO!

WELL... I'D LIKE TO KEEP SOME THINGS UNDER WRAPS! MY RESEARCH IS HIGHLY SECRET!

SECRET?

REALLY?!

VRRR

EXACTLY! YOU SEE, THERE'S SOMETHING I DIDN'T TELL YOU! SOME BAD PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO ***STOP*** MY WORK!

YOU MEAN POLLUTING ***ANTI-ENVIRONMENTALISTS*** AND ***ENEMIES*** OF THE CEPHALOPOD?

YES, THEM! THESE PEOPLE EVEN HATE ***GASTROPODS*** TOO! IMAGINE, THEY EAT PLATES AND PLATES OF FRIED CALAMARI!

WHO COULD BE SO ***CRUEL?***

OHHH...

THERE THEY ARE, IT'S ***THEM!***

DON'T WORRY, WE KNOW HOW TO WELCOME THEM!

STEP ASIDE, FRIEND! READY WITH THE ***HERRING!***

VRRRR

WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS HOLDING?

IT LOOKS LIKE ***MULLET...***

OUCH! IT'S ***NOT*** MULLET!

RIGHT, IT'S HERRING!

SPLAT

SPLAT

SPLAT

TURN AROUND! THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR MINDS!

ROOARRR

THEY'RE GOING!

I'M AFRAID THEY'LL BE BACK!

ALLOW ME TO DISAGREE!

WATCH OUT, WE'RE ABOUT TO GET CAUGHT!

WOOOIINNNGGG

THERE, I KNEW IT! MY HEAD-ACHE IS BACK!

ME TOO! IT MUST BE THE HUMIDITY!

IT'S THE PROTECTION NET FOR CEPHALOPODUS STEN-CHOLENS!

IT SEEMS TO WORK RATHER WELL!

CRASH

THESE TWO DOLTS WON'T BE BOTHERING YOUR STUDIES ANY MORE!

BAH!

DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS, DOUBLEDUCK! YOUR CAREER AS A *SPY* IS OVER!

SPY?! IN WHAT SENSE, "SPY"?

IN THE SENSE OF *ENVIRONMENTALIST SEAWEED SPY!*

SURELY YOU DON'T THINK I WAS TELLING YOU *LIES*, DO YOU?

HERRING STORE

FANTASTIC! JUST FANTASTIC!

TIED UP AND LOCKED IN A ROOM STINKING OF *MULLET!*

THEY'RE NOT MULLET, DUCK! THEY'RE *HERRING!*

YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF AN EXPERT!

LISTEN, THERE'S A RISK WE'LL BE HELD PRISONER BY THESE *FANATIC MOLLUSK-FANCIERS* UNTIL THE EGGS HATCH!

ZOMP

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?

SIMPLE: ONE OF YOU UNTIE ME, AND THEN I'LL UNTIE YOU TWO!

FORGET OUR DISAGREE-MENTS FOR A MOMENT AND TRY TO *WORK TOGETHER!*

HOW?

TRY TO BE RATIONAL: I CAN'T FREE YOU, BUT YOU CAN FREE ME!

THE DUCK IS RIGHT!

HEY, DO YOU THINK WE'RE A PAIR OF IDIOTS?

FINE! BUT IF YOU TRY ANYTHING CLEVER, YOU'LL PAY FOR IT!

I ONLY HAVE ONE WORD FOR YOU...

... AND IT'S *THANK YOU AND GOODBYE!*

HEY, THAT'S *FOUR* WORDS!

SHUT UP, *IDIOT!* THE DUCK HAS TRICKED US!

NOW I JUST HAVE TO GET TO THE *BATHYSCAPHE* AND WE'RE DONE!

SEEMS LIKE YOU NEED YOUR MEMORY RE-FRESHED!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING? FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS, YOU'RE RE-ALLY ACTING LIKE *BULLIES!*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DIDN'T WE TIE YOU UP?

IN FACT, I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! ISN'T THAT A *CALAMARUS PARSLEYUS?* ! THOUGHT THEY WERE EXTINCT!

A CALAMA-RUS?

WHERE? WHERE?

I MUST HAVE BEEN *MIS-TAKEN!*

BONK

PROBABLY *JUST* AN OPTICAL ILLUSION!

NOW IT'S TIME TO GET BACK ON *TRACK* TO THE POLE!

VERY GOOD!

I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE STINKY MOLLUSK, SO...

... *RAPID SURFACING* AND SITUATION CHECK-UP!

CLACK

LET'S SEE WHERE THE POLAR STAR IS... *GULP! IT'S GONE!*

HERE I AM ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN, ON A STARLESS NIGHT AND WITH NO MORE PROVISIONS!

CAN THINGS GET ANY *WORSE?*

PLOP

IT WOULD SEEM SO!

SCROOOSCH

THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT HAVE AN *UNDERWATER SNOOZE!* TOMORROW THE DAYLIGHT WILL HELP ME COME UP WITH A PLAN!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? NEVER SEEN A DUCK INSIDE A SUBMARINE BEFORE?

HEY, WHAT MANNERS!

CLEARLY THERE'S A MUTUAL *ANTIPATHY* BETWEEN DUCKS AND MOLLUSKS!

I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED...

CALAMARI ALWAYS GIVES ME *INDIGESTION*...

THE NEXT MORNING...

HOW IS THE VOYAGE PROCEEDING, *BOSUN?*

EXCELLENTLY, *CAPTAIN!* IT'S STOPPED RAINING AND THE SUN IS SHINING!

THE SEA IS FLAT AND THE WIND IS IN OUR FAVOR! WE'RE MAKING GOOD TIME!

I'M DELIGHTED TO HEAR IT!

THERE ARE NO SURPR... *GASP!* THERE'S SOMETHING AHEAD!

NO, IT'S A *DUCK* ON TOP OF A SUBMARINE! AND HE'S LOOKING AT US!

TURN TO PORT! MAYBE HE NEEDS *RESCUING!*

GOT IT!

VRR

A SHOAL OF *HERRING*, SIR? OR *MULLET*, PERHAPS?

WHAT'S GOING ON, FRIEND?

EXCUSE ME, I'M LOOKING FOR THE *ROAD*... I MEAN THE *ROUTE* TO THE NORTH POLE!

SHOULD I TAKE THE *BYPASS* OR GO STRAIGHT FOR THE *FREEWAY*?

YOU'RE HEADING FOR THOSE PARTS TOO?

YOU SHOULD FOLLOW US! WE ARE GOING STRAIGHT TO THE POLE, THEN CONTINUING EAST!

REALLY? FANTASTIC!

GLADLY!

WHY DON'T YOU DO THIS? *HITCH UP* YOUR SUBMARINE TO THE SHIP AND *COME ON BOARD!* WE CAN HAVE A CHAT ALONG THE WAY!

HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT TOW ROPE!

AFTER ALL THE TIMES THE 313 HAS BROKEN DOWN...

OFFICERS' MESS

AND SO YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE POLE TOO, DEAR DONALD! CAN I ASK *WHY?*

BY NOW I'VE SEEN ALL THE TROPICAL ISLANDS! SO I SAID TO MYSELF: WHY NOT TAKE A LITTLE TRIP UP NORTH?

I HAVE THE IMPRESSION YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME THE *TRUTH*, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!

OH WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS...

YOU KNOW, CAPTAIN, I WAS WONDERING SOMETHING!

MEN OF THE SEA KNOW HOW TO RESPECT *DISCRETION!*

YOUR SHIP IS NOT AN ICEBREAKER! HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DEAL WITH THE *ICEBERGS?*

THANKS TO *POLLUTION* AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE!

YOU MEAN THE ROUTE IS NO LONGER COVERED IN ICE?

UNFORTUNATELY THE ICEBERGS ARE *MELTING* FAST, DEAR FRIEND!

IT SEEMS THAT AS THE PLANET OVERHEATS, THE FAMOUS "NORTHWEST PASSAGE"* HAS OPENED UP!

SKA

CANADA

*THE ROUTE THAT CONNECTS THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS THROUGH THE CANADIAN ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO

IT DOES SAVES SHIPS A LOT OF TIME, BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S REALLY SUCH A GOOD THING!

I HAVE THE SAME FEELING!

WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING, AND FAST, TO *STOP* ALL THE PLANET'S ICE MELTING!

IT WOULD BE A *CATASTROPHE!*

RIGHT!

I HOPE SOMEONE IS THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM!

WELL... I THINK SOMETHING IS BEING DONE!

I WISH I COULD BE AS *OPTIMISTIC* AS YOU!

YES, THE ROUTE HAS BEEN *SET!*

ARE YOU GOING TO *REST,* CAPTAIN?

WE HAVE *AUTOPILOT* ON SHIPS TOO!

I HAD THEM MAKE UP A *CABIN* FOR YOU! I HOPE YOU'LL BE COMFORTABLE!

GUEST QUARTERS

I'M SURE IT WILL BE PERFECT, *THANK YOU!*

AAAH! THIS COT IS VERY COMFORTABLE, COMPARED TO THE BATHYSCAPHE!

THE CAPTAIN IS REALLY A GOOD PERSON!

TOMORROW I'LL ASK HIM IF HE CAN LEND ME A COMPASS AND I'LL CONTINUE ON MY OWN!

THIS MISSION IS TOP SECRET AND IT HAD BETTER STAY THAT WAY! PARTICULARLY KNOWING THAT JAY J HAS SOLD OUT TO THE ORGANIZATION!

"WHAT A PEACEFUL NIGHT! WHAT SILENCE!"

"IT HARDLY FEELS LIKE BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA!"

"IT SEEMS LIKE NOTHING BAD COULD EVER HAPP... ZZZ..."

YAAAWN... WHAT A RESTFUL NIGHT!

THE ROCKING OF THE WAVES REALLY SOOTHED ME TO SLEEP!

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... THE MESS SHOULD BE DOWN HERE! I COULD REALLY DO WITH A BIG BREAKFAST!

EVERYTHING IS SO QUIET! COULD THE CREW STILL BE SLEEPING?

I DON'T WANT TO KEEP REPEATING MYSELF, BUT WHEN EVERYTHING IS TOO CALM, IT MEANS SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO...

... HAPPEN!

AND WHO WOULD THAT BE? THE *AUTO CO-PILOT?*

GASP! THE CAPTAIN AND THE BOSUN, *TIED UP!*

THE SHIP IS UNDER *OUR* CONTROL!

YOU KNOW WHERE TO TAKE IT! WE'LL START *EMPTYING* IT TONIGHT!

PIRATES!...

I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED THE BATHYSCAPHE!

I'D BETTER *CLEAR OFF,* BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

WAIT A MINUTE! I *CAN'T* LEAVE THE CAPTAIN IN THIS MESS, AFTER HE SAVED MY FEATHERS!

THOSE *CRIMINALS* DON'T KNOW I'M HERE!

I HAVE TO TRY TO TAKE THEM BY *SURPRISE!*

IT'S A *RISKY* MOVE!

ANYONE ELSE WOULD RUN AWAY!

ANYONE, *EXCEPT* FOR DOUBLEDUCK!

STAY ON BOARD FOR THE THIRD ISSUE OF MISSION THERMIC CORE!

THE END